Puja ca pujaneyyanam, to honour those worthy of honour; this is the way to auspiciousness

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Fourth Meeting of Sixth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee concludes

The 4th meeting of the 6th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 15 March — The second and final day session of the Fourth Meeting of the Sixth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held at Wizaya Mingala Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Chairman of the SSMNC Magway Maha Withutayama Taikthit Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara presided over the meeting, while Joint-Secretary Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitasiribhivamsa acted as MC.

Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Paññasiri made assessment on the report of Viniççhaya affairs submitted by the SSMNC (Second Branch), Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Eindasiri on the religious affairs, and Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Kundala on the education affairs.

In the afternoon, the meeting discussed the reports of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, seeking the approval for the agenda of the second meting of the 6th SCWCS and others.

The master of ceremonies supplicated on the discussions related to the report of the SSMNC (Second Branch).

Departmental heads of the Ministry of Religious Affairs presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Also present at the meeting were Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General U Myo Kyaw of the Religious Affairs Department and officials.

Today, (U San Tha Kyaw)-Daw Khin Lay Chit and family of Kan Yeik Mon Housing Estate in Hline Township offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha.— *MNA*

Weather Forecast for (16-3-2008)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:
Generally fair weather.

Yangon and neighbouring area:
Partly cloudy.

Mandalay and neighbouring area :
Partly cloudy

Four political objectives

* **Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order**
* **National reconsolidation**
* **Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution**
* **Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution**

Four economic objectives

* **Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well**
* **Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system**
* **Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad**
* **The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples**

Four social objectives

* **Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation**
* **Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character**
* **Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit**
* **Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation**

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 16 March, 2008

Further strengthen Myanmar-Thai friendship

At the invitation of Prime Minister General Thein Sein, a delegation led by Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Samak Sundaravej arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to pay a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar on 14 March.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received the Thai delegation led by Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Samak Sundaravej at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.

During his goodwill visit, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Samak Sundaravej met with Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein at the meeting hall of the Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw and discussed matters on mutually beneficial cooperation.

And an agreement on promotion of investment sector and protection of interests between the two countries was signed.

Myanmar is actively cooperating with neighbouring nations, ASEAN nations and the international community including the United Nations. In the meantime, it is further strengthening friendship with neighbouring nations and ASEAN member nations.

Sharing common culture and custom, Myanmar and Thailand have been good neighbours. As a result, the two countries are making progress in border trade and cooperation. So, we firmly believe that the goodwill visit of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Samak Sundaravej to the Union of Myanmar will not only further cement the Myanmar-Thai friendship but also further promote mutual cooperation between the two countries.

UM-1 old students to pay respects to faculty members on 22 March

YANGON, 14 March —Old students of University of Medicine-1 (Yangon) will organize the second ceremony to pay respects to faculty members at M-3 Food Centre, here, at 8 am on 22 March.

The old students are invited to the ceremony without fail.

MNA

All this needs to be known

* **Do not be frightened whenever intimidated**
* **Do not be bolstered whenever flattered**
* **Do not be softened whenever appeased**

People's Desire

* **Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views**
* **Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation**
* **Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State**
* **Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy**

Advanced Management (Special) Course No 8 for USDA Executives concludes

USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo addresses the conclusion of Advanced Management (Special) Course No 8 for USDA Executives.
MNA

YANGON, 14 March — The Advanced Management (Special) Course No 8 for Executives of the Union Solidarity and Development Association concluded at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-General of the USDA U Htay Oo said that today's development of the State and prevailing peace and stability came through the concerted efforts of the government, the Tatmadaw and the people. During the 14-year period, the USDA members are joining hands with the people in building a new nation with the united strength. Due to implementation of the future plans of the association in various parts of the nation, the members could win the trust of local people.

The Commission for Drafting State Constitution formed by the government has successfully drafted the constitution. In addition, the clarification has been made clearly for holding the referendum for approval of the draft constitution in May 2008 and for holding the multi-party general election in 2010. To successfully approve the draft constitution and hold the multi-party general election are the national duty for the entire people. In building a new nation, all the members are to guard against the obstacles and destructive acts.

In conclusion, the secretary-general urged them to maintain peace, tranquillity and progress of the nation while striving for gaining more development; join hands with the people in realization of the seven-step Road Map; cooperate with the entire people to approve the draft in accord with the wishes of the people and successfully hold the multi-party general election; to guard against all the destructive acts; and strive for becoming a reliable national force while carrying out the future tasks of the association.

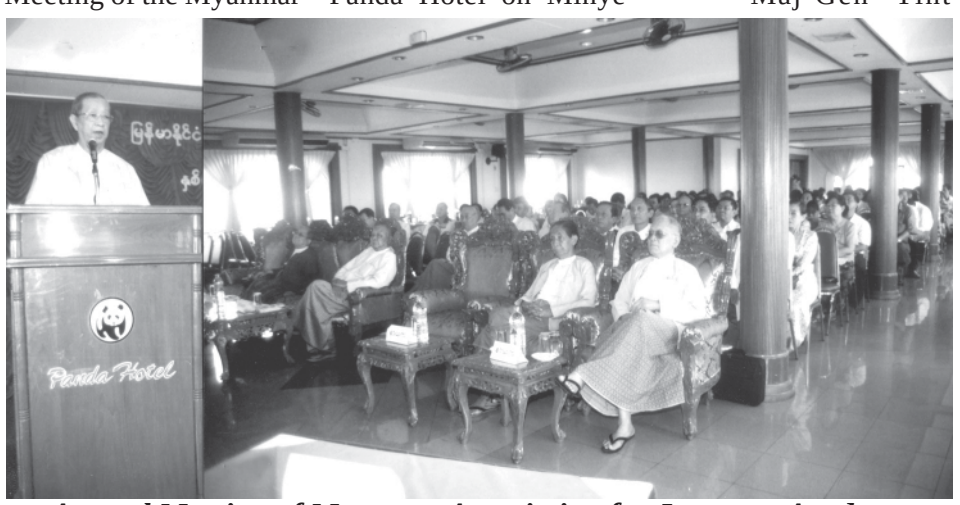
The one-month training course was attended by 200 trainees. —*MNA*

MAJA holds annual meeting

YANGON, 15 March — The Annual Meeting of the Myanmar Association for Japanese Academy was held at Panda Hotel on Minye Kyawswa Street here this morning.

Maj-Gen Tint Swe (Rtd), Chairman of MAJA Dr Aung Kyaw and Patron U Thet Tun gave speeches. Later, Vice-Chairman-1 U Myint Wai read out the message of the Japanese Ambassador, Secretary U Myo Khin the annual report, Treasurer U Myint Soe the financial statement and Audit U Lo Taing Ya the audit report.

After approving the annual report and the speech of the chairman, member U Maung Maung Aye made suggestions, and the meeting came to a close. — *H*



***Annual Meeting of Myanmar Association for Japanese Academy in progress.*—H**

Sudan rejects US human rights criticism

KHARTOUM, 15 March —Sudan rejected US criticism of its human rights record on Thursday, saying George W Bush's Administration was the biggest rights abuser in the world and had ignored big improvements made by Khartoum.

The US State Department said Sudan's record remained "horrific" with "continued reports of extrajudicial killings, torture, beatings, and rape by government security forces and their proxy militia in Darfur" in a report published on Tuesday. But Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs accused Washington of ignoring significant improvements in the human rights situation.

The "Sudan Government has never hesitated in adopting legal procedure against the persons who committed human rights violations in Darfur," said the statement, released on the state *Suna* news agency on Thursday.

International experts estimate 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million been forced to flee homes in Sudan's western Darfur region since conflict erupted there in 2003. Khartoum puts the death toll at 9,000.— *MNA/Reuters*

***Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir (L front) and his Chadian counterpart Idriss Deby (R front) sign a peace deal during the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Dakar, capital of Senegal, on 13 March, 2008. Bashir and Deby signed the peace deal on Thursday evening aimed to end years of hostility between the two neighboring countries.*—XINHUA**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Chad says Sudan sent rebels across its border

DAKAR, 15 March — Chad on Thursday accused Sudan of sending "heavily armed columns" of anti-government rebels into its territory in the midst of international efforts to secure a peace accord between the two neighbours.

"The Chadian Government informs national and international opinion that Sudan on Wednesday March 12, 2008 launched several heavily armed columns against Chad," an official statement released in N'Djamena said.

Calling the attacking forces "mercenaries", the usual term it uses for Chadian rebels, the Chadian Government said the incursion took place at Moudeina on its eastern frontier with Sudan's Darfur. There was no immediate independent confirmation.

Chad, which often accuses Khartoum of backing Chadian rebels fighting to topple President Idriss Deby, made the latest accusation as the leaders of both states were preparing to meet in the Senegalese capital Dakar in the latest peace initiative.— *MNA/Reuters*

Chavez goads US over terrorism blacklist, sanctions

CARACAS, 15 March — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez dared the United States on Friday to impose sanctions on his OPEC nation as a terrorism sponsor after US officials said they were investigating his support for Colombian rebels.

The probe could prompt the Bush Administration to put the self-styled socialist revolutionary on the list and impose sanctions on the major oil supplier to the United States. "They threatened to put us on the list of terrorists that they've got there. Great, let them make their list and shove it in their ... pocket," Chavez said with a pause for comic effect.

The United States, which clashes with Chavez over everything from oil prices to arms sales, has pledged to investigate Colombian allegations this month that a rebel's computer files show Chavez offered the FARC 300 million US dollars.

The leftist, anti-US Chavez expresses sympathy for Marxist FARC rebels and has called for the United States and the European Union to stop labelling the group as terrorists, causing friction with neighboring Colombia, a US ally. — *MNA/Reuters*

Ecuadorean President says US should stop accusations

QUITO, 15 March — Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa Friday told his US counterpart George W Bush to "shut up", in response to US criticism that Ecuador harbours rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In a declaration published by the presidency, Correa also challenged Bush to send troops to the Colombian-Ecuadorean border.

"Bring your soldiers Bush, let your soldiers die at the southern border with Colombia. Let's see if US citizens will accept such an outrage. Otherwise, shut up and try to understand what's happening in Latin America," Correa added.

Correa made the remarks following implied criticism of Ecuador by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who said Thursday during a visit to Brazil that "responsible states" should not let their territory be used by "terrorists".

MNA/Xinhua

Republican fundraisers' ex-auditor under scrutiny

WASHINGTON, 15 March — The fundraising arm for Republican members of the US House of Representatives said on Thursday its former treasurer is under investigation for the unauthorized transfers of "several hundred thousand dollars" of its funds to outside committees.

The National Republican Congressional Committee said that after it learned bogus financial statements had been submitted to its bank dating back to 2002, it contacted the FBI, which began a criminal investigation.

Christopher Ward, a consultant to the committee and its former treasurer, was dismissed in January. He had worked for the committee since 1995.

Citing an unnamed law enforcement official, *The Washington Post* first reported that the FBI was investigating what appears to be a "significant amount of money" missing from the committee. The committee's chairman, Representative Tom Cole of Oklahoma, said in a statement, "The evidence we have today indicates we have been deceived and betrayed for a number of years by a highly respected and trusted individual."

MNA/Reuters

***A woman collects clean water as she walks through a flooded residential area in Jakarta on 13 March, 2008. Several parts of Jakarta suffer from flooding during the rainy season.*—INTERNET**

New leaders elected at NPC plenary meeting

BEIJING,15 March — Hu Jintao was reelected President of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and chairman of the 0PRC Central Military Commission (CMC) at the fifth plenary meeting of the First Session of the 11th National People's Congress (NPC) here Saturday.

The plenary meeting also reelected Wu Bangguo chairman of the NPC Standing Committee and elected Xi Jinping vice-president of the PRC.

Elected to the posts of vice-chairmanship of the NPC Standing Committee were Wang Zhaoguo, Lu Yongxiang, Uyunqimg, Han Qide, Hua Jianmin, Chen Zhili, Zhou Tienong, Li Jianguo, Ismail Tiliwaldi, Jiang Shusheng, Chen Changzhi, Yan Junqi and Sang Guowei.

MNA/Xinhua

Hu, Putin hail strategic partnership development

BEIJING, 14 March — Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin hailed the development of the strategic partnership between the two countries in a telephone conversation, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

Hu spoke highly of Putin's outstanding contributions to the China-Russia strategic partnership in the phone talks Wednesday, the ministry said in a statement. The two countries have signed the Sino-Russian Good-Neighbourly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation and achieved a thorough settlement of the border issue, the Chinese President said.

Both countries successfully staged the "Year of Russia" in China and the "Year of China" in Russia during the past two years, after the signing of a joint statement on world order in the 21st Century in July 2005, he added.

Hu expressed confidence in seeing more fruits of friendship and further development of the Russia-China strategic partnership based on common efforts.

Putin highly evaluated his close and fruitful cooperation with Hu, reaffirming that Russia and China are strategic partners and that his country attaches great importance to bilateral ties with China.

More than 600 events were staged within the framework of the national theme years, he said, adding Russia and China have witnessed steady expansion of bilateral trade and good cooperation in world affairs.

Xinhua

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei delivers a speech after casting his ballot in Iran's Parliamentary election in Tehran on 14 March, 2008. Iranians on Friday began voting in the country's eighth parliamentary elections in which conservatives are expected to retain their control of the legislature.

XINHUA

Over 30 contestants of the Miss Tourism Queen International competition pose for a photo in the ancient township of Xitang in Jiashan county, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 13 March, 2008. The China final of Miss Tourism Queen International will kick off there on 15 March.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

China's CPPCC concludes annual session

BEIJING, 15 March — The First Session of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) concluded on Friday, adopting resolutions and stressing the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) over the CPPCC.

Jia Qinglin, who was re-elected chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, the top political advisory body, presided over the closing meeting.

Jia urged political advisers to adhere to the two main themes of unity and democracy and "unite all forces that can be united" to contribute to the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

He called the session a success and offered thanks for the support from the CPC Central Committee, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), State Council and others.

CPC and state leaders Hu Jintao, Wu Bangguo, Wen Jiabao, Zeng Qinghong, Li Changchun, Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, He Guoqiang and Zhou Yongkang attended the opening and closing and participated in group discussions on state affairs. —*Xinhua*

Cambodia, Singapore sign MoU to fight transnational crimes

PHNOM PENH, 14 March — Cambodian and Singaporean Government officials here on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to carry out more cooperation against transnational crimes.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs of Singapore (MHA) and its counterpart Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Cambodia have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on developing cooperation to combat transnational crimes," said a Press release from the Singaporean Embassy.

The MOU with the Kingdom of Cambodia was signed by a senior Singaporean delegation and Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sar Kheng in Phnom Penh on Thursday, it said.

"The MOU provides a formal framework to facilitate better understanding of challenges in the areas of combating transnational crimes, and the conclusion of the MOU signals closer cooperation in the exchange of expertise and information between Singapore and the Kingdom of Cambodia," it said.

Xinhua

India to continue one-China policy

NEW DELHI, 14 March — India will continue to abide by the one-China policy and oppose any activity that is against the one-China principal, said Navtej Sarna, spokesman of Indian Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday.In an exclusive interview with *Xinhua* on Taiwan issue, Sarna said the government of India has followed the one-China policy and does not have diplomatic or official relations with Taiwan. The India's policy is consistent and has been conveyed to the government of the People's Republic of China on several occasions.

Most recently, he said, during the Prime Minister of India's visit to China in January 2008, in a joint statement, the Indian side recalls that India was among the first countries to recognize that there is one China, and that its one-China policy has remained unchanged.—*Xinhua*

Rescuers help a worker rescued from a tunnel in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 14 March, 2008. Five workers were pulled out of a tunnel on Friday after being trapped for 25 hours by an avalanche that killed at least four in the Kazak Autonomous Prefecture of Ili of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. However, 12 others buried in snow drifts of more than 50 meters deep blocking the entrance of the tunnel construction site remained missing.—XINHUA

Merkel vows to protect auto sector jobs

BRUSSELS, 15 March — German Chancellor Angela Merkel vowed to protect jobs in her country's car industry on Thursday, ahead of an EU summit where leaders will seek to set out a timetable for action on curbing emissions."I will be standing up particularly for jobs in Germany's car sector," Merkel said before the talks in Brussels, saying that countries which manufacture large cars should not be treated worse than those which produce smaller ones.

"That is why we want a fair set of rules here," she told reporters, adding that efforts to protect the environment must be tied in with maintaining a competitive industrial base. EU states agreed in principle last year to cut emissions by at least one-fifth by 2020 from 1990 levels, to use 20 per cent of renewable energy sources in power production and 10 per cent of biofuels from crops in transport by the same date.

The EU wants to work out the details on how to achieve those targets by this time next year so as to be ready for global talks on new emissions rules to replace the Kyoto Protocol.—*MNA/Reuters*

China's Sinosteel headquarters in Beijing, China is seen in this undated handout photograph. China's Sinosteel Corp launched a hostile all-cash offer for Australian iron ore prospector Midwest Corp on 14 March, 2008 in a deal that values Midwest at AUS$1.2 billion ($US1.1 billion) as it aims to lock up scarce iron ore supplies. —INTERNET

China overtakes US as top Web market

SHANGHAI, 15 March — China has surpassed the United States to become the world's largest Internet market by number of users, a research firm said on Thursday. The estimate by Beijing-based BDA was based on data from China Internet Network Information Centre which indicated that the country's Internet users totalled 210 million at end-2007.

Nielsen/NetRatings put the United States Web population at 216 million for the same period, BDA said. "Based on these sources and the assumption that these markets have continued to grow in 2008 to date at the same rates that they grew in 2007, we can conclude that China has by now comfortably surpassed the United States as the world's largest Internet population," analyst Bin Liu said in a statement.

BDA added that it expected e-commerce to become the next boom sector in China, as businesses take advantage of the mass market of consumers already online.— *MNA/Reuters*

Vietnam produces energy-saving mobile microprocessor

HANOI, 14 March — The Vietnamese company VSMC has succeeded in manufacturing Vietnam's first energy-saving microprocessor which helps mobile electronics devices slash their energy consumption by 40 per cent, local newspaper *Young People* reported Thursday.

The microprocessor coded VS8801A can be used in smart phones, digital cameras, PDAs, Pocket PCs, and iPods. Vo Huu Hai, director of the company in southern Ho Chi Minh City, said his firm and Taiwanese microprocessor maker TSMC have reached a deal on VS8801A production. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China's fixed asset investment up 24.3%

BEIJING, 15 March — China's fixed asset investment totalled 812.1 billion yuan (about 114.4 billion US dollars) in the first two months, up 24.3 per cent year on year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Friday.

The figure represented a slight acceleration, by 0.9 percentage points than that for 2007's same period.

Investment in the booming real estate sector grew 32.9 per cent to 237.4 billion yuan, according to the NBS. Investment in projects authorized by the central government rose by 14.9 per cent and in local government-approved projects by 25.3 per cent compared with the same period of last year.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Russia, Ukraine agree to remove gas middlemen

MOSCOW, 14 March— Russia and Ukraine will remove all middlemen in their gas trade, Russia's gas export monopoly said on Thursday, ending years of opaque schemes which caused tensions between the two neighbours and alarmed investors.

"There is no need for them now after we agreed to supply some volumes to Ukraine's industrial consumers directly and given the upcoming rise in the Central Asian gas price," Gazprom's spokesman Sergei Kupriyanov told *Reuters.*

The move is likely to be hailed by Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who has demanded Moscow axe all intermediaries saying their role was unclear and led only to gas price increases for Ukraine.

Her tough stance and Ukraine's debt for previous supplies of gas were the main reasons behind a new round of tensions between Moscow and Kiev, which prompted Gazprom to briefly halve supplies to Ukraine earlier this month.—*MNA/Reuters*

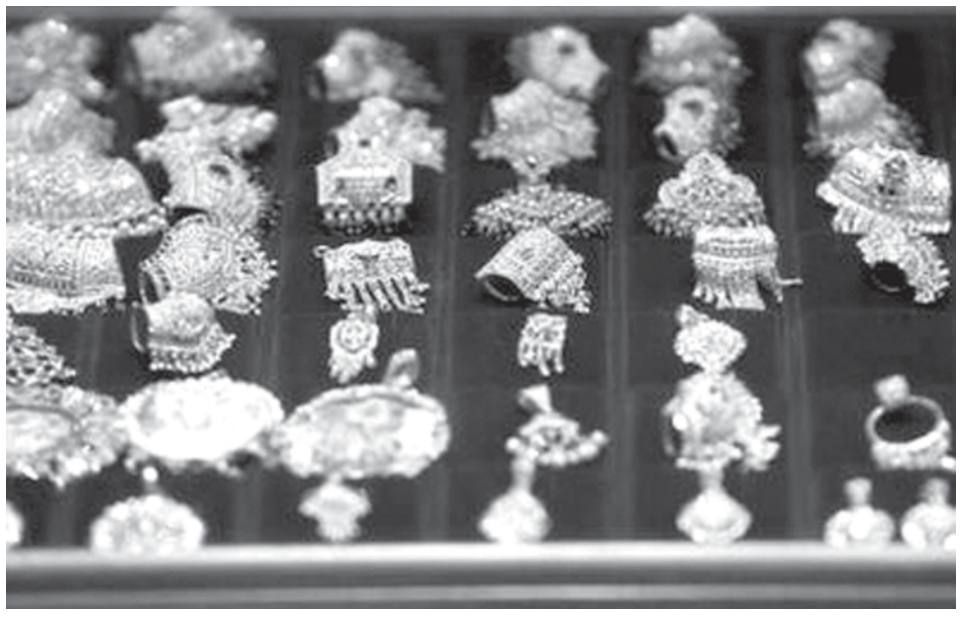
Britain, China explore potentials in creative industries

LONDON, 14 March— The Centre for Creative Business in London hosted on Thursday Creative Exchange with China, exploring the possibilities of business ventures between the two countries in the creative industry. The conference, which is aimed to help creative businesses from both China and Britain to get to know each other before exploring the business potentials of the rising industry, has attracted some 200 creative entrepreneurs, creative business managers and executives, policy makers, practitioners academics and researchers.

In his keynote speech delivered at the conference, Michael Bichard, rector of the University of the Arts London, said within the next two years, Britain's creative industries sector is expected to overtake the financial sector as the country's most significant economy. At the same time, China will move ahead of Germany as the world's third largest economy.

MNA/Xinhua

Gold earrings are seen on display at a jewellery shop in Singapore on 14 March, 2008.Spot gold jumped on Friday and held within sight of the $1,000-an-ounce barrier broken on the futures market after the dollar his a record low against the euro, boosting the metal's appeal as an alternative investment.—INTERNET



Cambodia to reduce foreign debt to $2b after election

PHNOM PENH, 14 March — In the face of recent US appeals for Cambodia to pay back its foreign debt, Cambodia has announced plans to make substantial repayments after the 2008 election, local media reported on Thursday.

"We hope that foreign debt will be reduced to two billion US dollars," Hang Chuon Naron, secretary general of the Economy and Finance Ministry, was quoted by the *Mekong Times* newspaper as saying.

The Cambodian Government will hold negotiations with loan providers both to reduce debts and set aside a portion of the state budget to repay them, Hang Chuon Naron said."We will need 20 million to 50 million US dollars each year to repay the US and Russia," he added.

Cambodia currently owes over three billion US dollars to foreign countries, according to Finance Ministry figures from 2006, the newspaper said.

MNA/Xinhua

US gets guilty plea on illegal exports to India

WASHINGTON, 15 March — The owner of an electronics company pleaded guilty on Thursday to conspiracy to illegally export sensitive computer components, including missile technology, to India, the US Justice Department said.

Parthasarathy Sudarshan, 47, admitted he took part in a scheme to provide the parts to government entities in India that develop missiles, space launch vehicles and fighter jets, department officials said.

According to court documents, Sudarshan did business as Cirrus Electronics and said he was the chief executive officer, managing director, president and group head. It has offices in Simpsonville, South Carolina; Singapore; and Bangalore, India.

He had many years of experience as an electrical engineer in the research and development section of India's state-run defence industry, before he emigrated to Singapore and started Cirrus in 1997, the officials said. Among the recipients of the US technology were the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and Bharat Dynamics—key state agencies in India's space and defence sectors.

MNA/Reuters

US falsely implicates Guantanamo prisoner

GUANTANAMO BAY US NAVAL BASE (Cuba), 14 March — A US military report on a battle in which a US soldier died in Afghanistan was altered after the fact to falsely blame a young Canadian prisoner, his lawyer said on Thursday.

The report initially said the assailant who threw the fatal grenade had himself been killed in the battle near the Afghan city of Khost on 27 July, 2002, the lawyer, Navy Lieutenant Commender. William Kuebler, told reporters at the Guantanamo naval base.

The officer who wrote that report on 28 July, 2002, revised it about two months later to say the grenade thrower survived, implicating Canadian prisoner Omar Khadr, said Kuebler. He asked a judge in the Guantanamo war court to allow him to interview that officer about the contradictory accounts. — *MNA/Reuters*

A Pakistani family mourn for their three year-old girl, who died in the Tuesday's suicide bombing in Lahore, Pakistan seen on 14 March, 2008. Security officials warned that this week's suicide truck bombing marked a dangerous escalation by militants who are now striking across Pakistan.

INTERNET

Chinese computer users in Hangzhou. China's Internet population has overtaken the United States' to become the world's biggest with about 220 million web surfers.—INTERNET

Japan domestic violence cases jump, women end silence

TOKYO, 15 March — Japanese police said on Thursday the number of domestic violence cases jumped 15 per cent last year to 21,000 cases as more women broke their silence about assaults in the home.

"An increasing number of cases concern women who had previously suffered in silence but have decided to come out to seek advice or support from police," *Kyodo News* agency quoted an agency official as saying. A growing public outcry about violence behind closed doors prompted Japan to enact its first law on domestic violence in 2001. This was expanded in 2004 to cover former spouses and children. Courts can order perpetrators to leave their homes for two months and force them to stay away from their children, spouse or former spouse.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesian military chopper crashes, kills pilot

JAKARTA, 14 March — A helicopter belonging to the Indonesian Air Force crashed in the West Java town of Subang Tuesday, killing one crew and injuring another. The helicopter felt during a flight training at West Java Province.

Head of police chief of Subang District of the Sugiyono Province said that the helicopter was went down at 11:40 in a sugarcane plantation and was burned down.

"The pilot is killed and the technician has been in a hospital now," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Kenyan forces arrest 69 militiamen in offensive

ELDORET (Kenya), 14 March — Kenyan security forces have arrested 69 members of a shadowy militia blamed for a spate of bloody clashes over land in Kenya's Mount Elgon region, a local official said on Wednesday.

Hundreds of heavily armed soldiers have poured into the remote, fertile region on the border with Uganda, and witnesses say several people have been killed in a security operation to flush out the Sabaot Land Defence Force (SLDF) militia.

The Mount Elgon violence preceded a wave of ethnic killings around Kenya after President Mwai Kibaki's disputed re-election in December, but it shares some of the same root causes mainly resentment over land distribution and tribal tensions. "We have arrested 69 members of the Sabaot Land Defence Force, the operation will continue until the militias are wiped out," provincial commissioner Abdul Mwasserah told *Reuters.*

At least 300 people have fled their homes and are seeking refuge at a nearby shopping centre in Cheptais Town. Some have crossed the border to nearby Uganda, witnesses say.

MNA/Reuters

Suicide car bomb kills eight Afghans near Kabul airport

KABUL, 14 March — A suicide car bomber killed eight Afghan civilians in an attack on US troops near the airport in Afghanistan's capital on Thursday, a NATO spokesman said.

Taleban Islamist militants have threatened to step up suicide attacks on the capital Kabul this year in a campaign to wear down the will of NATO countries to carry on the fight in Afghanistan and force a withdrawal of foreign troops.

Thirty-five civilians were also wounded in Thursday's attack, but the four US soldiers inside the two vehicles targeted suffered only minor cuts and bruises. — *MNA/Reuters*

Pakistan says US-led Afghan force kills four villagers

ISLAMABAD, 14 March — Foreign forces in Afghanistan killed four Pakistani civilians, including two children, when they fired across the border, a Pakistani military spokesman said on Thursday.

Up to 2,000 villagers protested against the strike that happened on Tuesday night in Pakistan's North Waziristan border region where militants opposed to both the Afghan and Pakistani governments are based.

"They fired five rounds which landed in our territory and in the process a house was destroyed resulting in the deaths of two women and two children," said military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas. Pakistan had lodged a "very strong" protest with international forces in Afghanistan over the attack on the house, which was about two kilometres (1.25 miles) inside Pakistan, he said.

MNA/Reuters

Who does not favour election policy based on Bogyoke's patriotic spirit and preservation of own lineage, and why?

Maung Pwint Lin

The 1947 constitution of the Union of Myanmar was drawn in haste in the pre-independence period. In 1947, Myanmar was still under the rule of British colonialists. The invaders had a conspiracy to leave hilly regions out of the independence plan as schedule areas and grant independence to only the plain areas even if they had no choice. **However, thanks to the foresight of leaders of Myanmar patriots, nationalistic spirit and national unity, Panglong Agreement could be endorsed on 12 February 1947**. So, the whole Union regained independence.

At that time, some feudal sawbwas (chieftains) abetted by the colonialists tried to wreck the Panglong Conference to the liking of the aliens. After the nation achieved independence, the colonialists incited the armed insurrection of national races who were completely under the alien influence. Now, the colonialists' attempts to drive a wedge has come to the knowledge of the entire people, so national races have been able to achieve national reconsolidation.

When the drawing of the 1947 constitution was in process, Nyaungshwe Sawbwa Sao Shwe Thaik and his fourth wife Maha Devi Sao Hein Kham insisted that they could not participate in the process if the right to secede from the Union was not among the principles. Bogyoke Aung San had to yield to their coercion because regaining of independence was essential. However, foreseeing possible evil consequences of the sections, he on 17 July 1947 instructed state affairs subcommittee for drawing the State constitution U Myint Thein to omit the section on secession from the Union at the meeting to be held on 20 July 1947. On 19 July 1947, Bogyoke Aung San and some of his colleagues were assassinated. At the meeting on 20 July 1947, U Myint Thein submitted a case to leave out the section on secession from the Union as instructed by Bogyoke. It was later disclosed that Sao Shwe Thaik and Sao Hein Kham turned down the proposal and approved the section. Referring to the section, some sawbwas launched secession movements in the 1950s. The movements became out of control in March 1962. Many parties such as AFPFL, Pa-Hta-Sa, Pa-Ma-Nya-Ta, and Ra-Ta-Nya protested the movements. The ruling government was not in a position to control the deteriorating situations. Therefore, on 2 March 1962, the Revolutionary Council had to prevent the nation from the federal movements and the joining of SEATO or the US military empire that could break up the nation into eight parts. In other words, the Revolutionary Council had to safeguard the Union and Myanmar's sovereignty (independence).

It was followed by national race armed insurgency resulting from narrow racism, a wedge driven by alien countries among national races, and doubts. It had to work a lot to tackle the problems. Now, although a handful of remnant armed groups have fallen into the colonialists' snare of not returning to the legal fold, all the national race armed groups have made peace to share the tasks for peace and development of the Union. Not long ago, however, a group of old sawbwas led by Sao Hkam Hpa who were in exile (in the US and Europe) announced the secession of Shan State from the Union and establishment of independent Shan State.

Now, national brethren are upholding the independence policy of Bogyoke, and policy of ensuring perpetual existence of the Union with anti-colonialist sentiment and Union Spirit. **They are working together exerting the strength of national unity and Union Spirit to achieve the goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The State Constitution has been drafted that can guarantee perpetuation of the Union and independence, and development of the nation, and can help the people practise discipline-flourishing democracy.**

From 1948 when it regained independence to date, Myanmar has constantly exercised independent and active foreign policy, recognized the sovereignty of other countries with different religions, different political policies, different culture, different languages, and different economic policies, and upheld the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The country joined the UN in 1948, and since then, it has participated actively in the affairs of the global family, and regional organizations such as ASEAN and BIMSTEC.

It maintains the friendly relations with its neighbours and regional countries in accordance with the international conventions, UN Charter, and Bandung (Non-Aligned) policies. Myanmar is an exemplar in foreign relations.

Now, peace and stability has been restored throughout the nation, that the previous governments did not achieve despite their strenuous endeavours. Had the nation not faced disruption by the west bloc the remaining armed groups would have returned to the legal fold. I would say Myanmar's achievement in internal peace and national reconsolidation deserves recognition of the whole world.

Internal national axe-handles are instigating the international community to impose economic sanctions against and not to provide assistance for Myanmar, dissuading foreign companies from making investment in the nation, demanding the foreign companies in the nation for withdrawal of their investments, dissuading foreign tourists from visiting the nation, and calling on the international community to take action against the nation. Some countries that get along with the colonialists supported the demands of the axe-handles. They were resorting to various means to harm State's stability, peace and development hand in glove with external elements with the thought that if so Myanmar people would have to face hardships. When the havoc was intolerable, the people would take to the streets to their liking. Then, they would come to power.

Despite a variety of disruptions, the nation has enjoyed the taste of remarkable development due to the hard work exerted by national people with patriotic spirit and nationalistic fervour. The democratic process has made progress to a certain degree. Myanmar people are now enjoying the fruits of wholesome deeds they have done.

Myanmar people by nature preserve their lineage. In Myanmar, one of the five duties of children is to preserve their family lineage. Bogyoke Aung San in one of his speeches said that preservation of own lineage was patriotic spirit. Myanmar people in culture uphold preservation of own lineage and equip themselves with patriotic spirit. Thanks to the long colonial rule, the people have come to love and preserve own lineage all the more.

Every citizen knows that Myanmar people are only the ones who are eager to serve the interests of Myanmar. They appreciate the genuine goodwill and loving-kindness of friendly countries for Myanmar. However, they abhor the colonialists, who are casting covetous eyes on Myanmar's rich natural resources, and their associates. Bogyoke Aung San, who made sacrifices for the nation to regain independence, understood well the colonialists' stance. It was very visionary of Bogyoke Aung San to lay down a principle that could prevent the sovereignty of the entire people from falling in the hands of the ones who owe allegiance to a foreign government, or a subject of a foreign government or a citizen of a foreign country, the ones planted by external elements, and those who are trying to expend the interests of the nation in their interests.

Here, I would like to present a point that in the world, many persons are not happy with the adoration and preservation of own lineage. Once, former Secretary of State of the US Dr Henry Kissenger said that American citizens had to imbue themselves with nationalistic spirit; that they had to love the US where they were born and had grown up; that patriotism was a difficult issue; and asked what lineage they should love. The US is home to various races such as Negro, Hispanics, Cubans (expatriates), Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indian, Vietnamese and various Arabian tribes. In such countries, mixed marriage is a tradition. However, Asians including Myanmar cherish and preserve own lineage.

Bogyoke Aung San lived in the exercise of preserving own lineage. So, he prescribed a principle that says any person owing allegiance to a foreign government, or a subject of a foreign government or a citizen of a foreign country shall not have the right to stand for election and the right to vote. Myanmar people have constantly put in the fore Bogyoke's concept in order that they can exercise Myanmar's sovereign powers and the nation will not fall in the hands of the people who are not nationals. Like the election laws practised in the AFPFL period and the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party period, the 1990 Election Law includes the principle laid down by Bogyoke Aung San. The principles adopted by the National Convention and the principles on the right to stand for election stated in the draft constitution also carry the principle of Bogyoke.

If Myanmar people had not armed themselves with patriotism and patriotic spirit, the nation would have fallen under alien subjugation for long. A new nation must be built based on patriotic spirit. However, in the international relations, Myanmar will maintain friendly relations with other countries. Myanmar will continue to recognize the sovereignty of other countries and cooperate with other countries in global interests. Taking lessons from the state of being fallen under alien subjugation and having internal affairs interfered by alien countries, Bogyoke Aung San laid down that principle to make sure that Myanmar's internal affairs will be free from alien interference, and the practice of Myanmar sovereign powers is in the hands of Myanmar people only.

Western countries are making comments that the draft of the State constitution, which will be approved in a referendum to be held in coming May, deprives a particular person of the right to stand for election. No one can be privileged in the exercise of the principles based on the policy of preserving own lineage and on patriotic spirit.

The government has let bygones be bygones regarding activities of certain groups to provoke riots and chaos in the 1988 unrest, and the attempts they made in collusion with alien elements to incite protests with the intention of disrupting Myanmar's progress. In response, NLD should not revive the incidents that took place in 1988 and 1990. It should not look forward to the entices of foreign countries because it cannot achieve its goal if it does not win the support of the people. I would like to suggest that the leader of the party eat what she has said, and withdraw her threat to block national development, and utter devastation. If NLD truly believes it can win public support, it should make preparations to stand for election in the multi-party general elections to be held in 2010. If NLD is addicted to the praises and instigation of VOA, BBC and RFA, it will lose all of its reputation in the political field.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 15-3-2008

Thai delegation led by Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej pay homage to the Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej…

(from page 16)

On arrival at Shwedagon Pagoda, the Thai Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

After signing in the visitors' book, the Thai Prime Minister offered flowers, lights and joss sticks to the pagoda. The Thai Prime Minister made cash donations to the Pagoda. Next, they went round the pagoda.

On arrival at Yangon International Airport, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presented gifts to the Thai Prime Minister.

The Thai goodwill delegation led by Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej left here by special flight at 9.15 pm. They were seen off at the airport by Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bonsarn Bunnag and embassy staff.

MNA

Boosting yield of agricultural produce discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — The meeting on boosting the yield of agricultural produce was held at the hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Minye Kyawswa Road in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered an address.

President of UMFCCI U Win Myint reported on cooperaiton of congenial organizations in agricultural tasks.

The chairmen of congenial organizations submitted the reports on their tasks and future plans. —*MNA*

Earth road opened to hail 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day

USDA CEC member Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe addresses inauguration of Myatha earth road.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Myatha village earth road linking Aung Beik Theik village and Myatha village was opened at the road in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township this morning, attended by CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association (In-charge of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana) Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe.

The minister gave a speech on the occasion and donated clothing to the locals.

Next, secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District USDA U Khin Maung Htay donated publications to the library, the executive of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township USDA chopping hoes to the officials and the executive of Thitcon village-tract USDA presented membership applications to the secretary.

Later, the chairman of Myatha village PDC spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, the secretary of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District USDA, the chairman of Aung Beik Theik village PDC, the chairman of committee for constructing the road formally opened the road.

The village-to-village earth road is 6 miles and 4 furlongs long and 12 feet wide and was built by USDA.—*MNA*

Industry-1 Minister meets personnel, industrialists, social organization members in Mandalay Division

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met the factory managers and staff of the factories in Mandalay, Sagaing and Industrial Zone (Kyaukse Region) on the lawns of Paleik Textile and Finishing Plant of Myanma Textile Industries in Paleik, Mandalay Division here yesterday.

Chairman of Myanma Industrial Development Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung also met the chairman and members of Mandalay Industrial Zone Organizing Committee, the chairman and members of Mandalay Industrial Zone Development Committee, the entrepreneurs and industrial entrepreneurs of Vehicle Production Committee and guests at Kanaung Hall of Mandalay Industrial Zone and he gave necessary instructions to them.

Afterwards, Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met members of War Veterans Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women Affairs Organization, USDA and Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades at the Mandalay City Hall and left necessary instructions.

MNA

Responsible persons of Thazin Naing Trading Co Ltd explain facts about organic fertilizers to the farmers in Kungyangon village on 14 March 2008. **(News reported) —MNA**

Coord meeting of Kachin State and Bhamo District Sub-commissions for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution held

The meeting (1/2008) of Kachin State Sub-commission and Bhamo District Sub-commissions for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March— The coordination meeting (1/2008) of Kachin State and Bhamo District Sub-commissions for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place at the city hall in Bhamo on 9 March morning.

It was attended by Members of the Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Tin Aung Aye, Chairman U Maung Maung Win of Kachin State Sub-commission, chairmen and members of the District, Township, Ward and Village-tract Sub-commissions in Bhamo District.

Commission member Dr Tin Aung Aye delivered an opening speech. The chairman of the District sub-commission reported on tasks of the sub-commissions at different levels in the district.

Those present discussed matters related to collection of voters' list, voting and polling booth. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Commission member Dr Tin Aung Aye.

MNA

Coord meeting of Shan State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution organized

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — The coordination meeting (1/2008) of Shan State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place at it's hall on 8 March afternoon.

Members of the Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Sai Tun Mya and U Maung Lay presided over the meeting.

First, Commission member U Sai Tun Mya delivered a speech. The chairman of the Shan State Sub-commission reported on the law and by-law for approval of the draft constitution. The Secretary of Shan State Sub-commission explained the formation of District and Township Sub-commissions and assignment of their duties.

Those present participated in the discussions. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Commission member U Sai Tun Mya.

MNA

Shan State Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution holds meeting (1/2008).—MNA

Coord meeting of Shan State (North) Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution organized

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — Shan State (North) Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held the meeting 1/2008 at the office of Shan State Peace and Development Council on 8 March afternoon.

Chairman of the Sub-commission U Maung Maung Aung explained the organizational set up of the sub-commission and preparing the voting rolls, building of voting booth and boxes.

Afterwards, they viewed a sample polling booth and the chairman of the State Sub-Commission explained the demonstration in detail.

MNA

Shan State (North) Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution holds meeting (1/2008).—MNA

Inter-State and Division Golf Championship 2008 opened

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — The 30th Inter-State and Division Golf Championship 2008 was opened at the Yetaguntaung Golf Course in Mandalay here yesterday.

It was attended by the Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Patron of Myanmar Golf Federation Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), Chairman of MGF U Te Za and executive members, officials of the ministry of sports, officials of MCDC and managers, coaches and others.

After making an opening speech, the minister formally opened the tournament.

Next, the commander, the minister, the mayor, the patron and the chairman greeted the players.

After that, they teed off the golf to open the tournament.

Altogether 12 teams are taking part in the tournament that run up to 17 March.

MNA

Sagaing Division Sub-commission organizes coord meeting

Sagaing Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution holds meeting (1/2008).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — The Sagaing Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held the meeting 1/2008 at the hall of the Sagaing Division Sub-commission in Sagaing on 10 March morning, attended by Members of the Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Tun Tun Oo, Dr Maung Htoo and U Shi Thee, the chairman and members of the Sagaing Division Sub-commission.

Commission member U Tun Tun Oo delivered an opening address. The Chairman of the Sagaing Division Sub-commission reported on tasks being carried out by the division sub-commission and future plans. Commission members U Tun Tun Oo and Dr Maung Htoo replied to the queries raised by those present. Later, Commission member U Tun Tun Oo gave concluding remarks. *MNA*

Taninthayi Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution meets

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — Taninthayi Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar organized the meeting 1/2008 at the office of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council in Myeik on 9 March morning.

Members U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint and U Sai Yi Kyan of the Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Sub-commission U Than Win and members attended the meeting.

The commission members and the chairman of the Taninthayi Division Sub-commission explained the tasks for referendum, setting up of the sub-commissions at different levels and matters related to the law, the by-law and directives.

Those present reported on progress in collection of the voters' list and general matters.

Later, the chairman of the sub-commission gave the concluding remarks. *MNA*

The meeting (1/2008) of Taninthayi Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution in progress.—MNA

Bago Division Sub-commission holds meeting 1/2008

Bagon Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution holds meeting (1/2008).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — Members of the Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Chit Maung and U Tun Yin presided over the coordination meeting 1/2008 of the Bago Division Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at Khabaung Hall in Toungoo on 10 March morning.

Meeting Chairman Commission member U Chit Maung gave an opening speech. The Chairman of the Bago Division Sub-commission reported on the law and the by-law related to the holding of referendum and the Sub-commission Secretary on formation of the District and Township Sub-commissions and assignment of duties. Those present discussed the general matters. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Commission member U Chit Maung. — *MNA*

Bago Division (West) Sub-commission holds work coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — The meeting 1/2008 of Bago Division (West) Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place at Nawade Hall in Pyay on 10 March morning, attended by Members of Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution U Chit Hla and U Da Yay Hla, the chairman, the secretary and members of the Bago Division (West) Sub-commission.

Commission member U Chit Hla delivered a speech. The Chairman of Bago Division (West) Sub-commission reported on the law and the by-law related to the holding of referendum and the Sub-commission Secretary on formation of the District and Township Sub-commissions and assignment of duties. Those present took part in the discussions. The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by Commission member U Chit Hla. — *MNA*

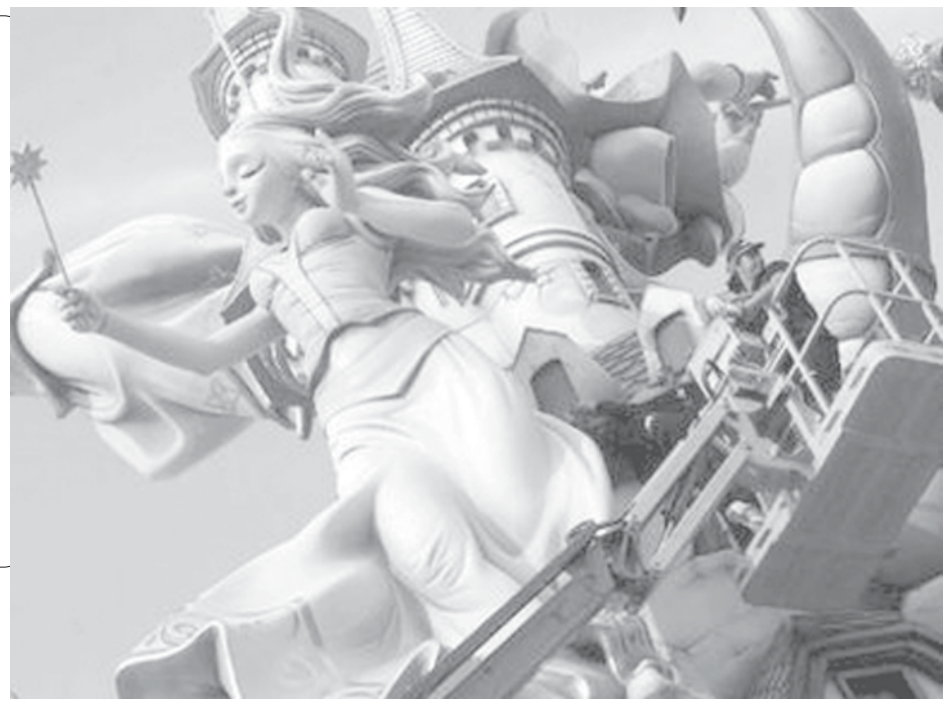
The meeting (1/2008) of Bago Division (West) Sub-commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of Draft Constitution in progress.—MNA

Images of the Day

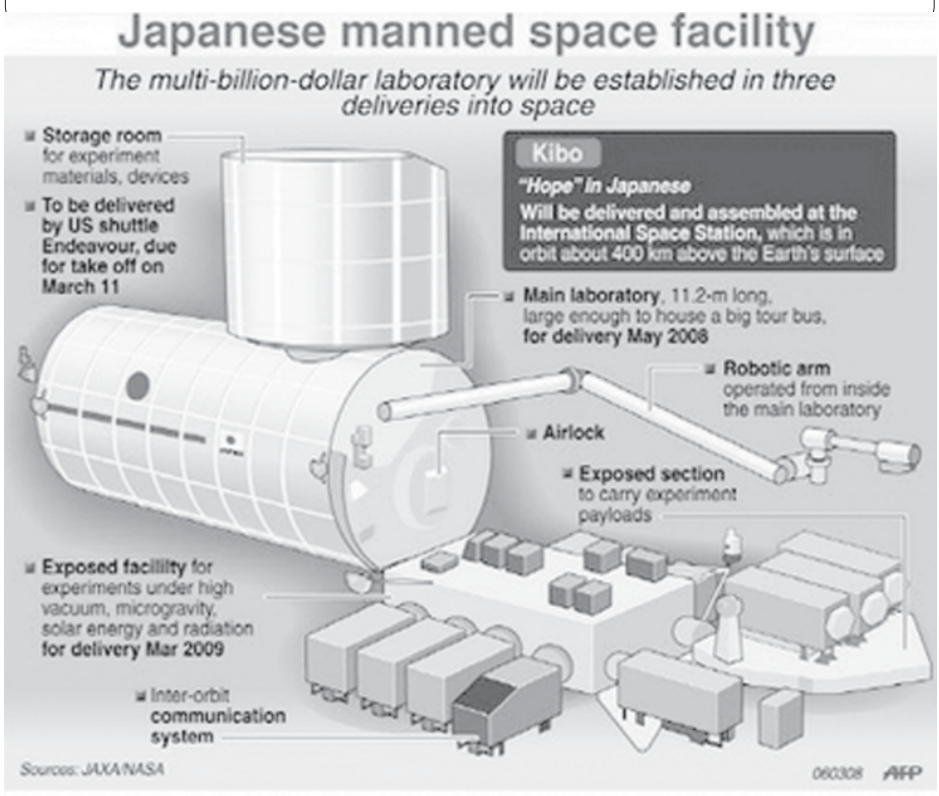
A newborn baby zebra, who is 3- day-old and yet to be named, stands with its mother Yoko at a zoo in Lima, on 14 March, 2008. The baby zebra, born on 11 March, is the second zebra born in captivity in Peru.— INTERNET

Craftsmen add finishing touches to a figure during the last preparations ahead of the 'Fallas' festival in Valencia on 14 March, 2008.

INTERNET



The space shuttle Endeavour will deliver the first piece of Japan's first manned space laboratory to the International Space Station (ISS). Endeavour astronauts installed a Japanese logistics module of the ISS and added "hands" to a Canadian robotic arm during a seven hour space walk, NASA said on Friday.— INTERNET



A file photo shows a mouse's memory is recorded by sensors connected to its head in a laboratory in East China Normal University in Shanghai.

INTERNET

Peru archaeologists find Inca temple in Andes

LIMA, 15 March — Researchers have found the ruins of an Inca temple built for religious ceremonies in the Andes Mountains, at a park in the archeologically rich region of southern Peru that includes Machu Picchu.

The temple measures 2,700 square feet (250 sqare metres), includes 11 rooms of various sizes and an area in the shape of a Chacana, an Incan religious symbol.

"This was an adoration centre," said Oscar Rodriguez, a researcher at the Sacsayhuaman archaeological park that, like the ancient Incan citadel of Machu Picchu, is a popular tourist destination.

Archaeologists said they will spend the next five years investigating evidence of other buildings near the temple, which was made of stones and adobe.

Scientists were lucky to have found the temple, part of which was destroyed nearly 100 years ago by dynamite blasts at a nearby rock quarry, Rodriguez said.Peru is rich in archaeological treasures. Until the arrival of the Spanish in the 1500s, the Incas ruled an empire for several centuries that stretched from Colombia and Ecuador in the north to what are now Peru and Chile in the south.—*MNA/Reuters*

Ruins of an Inca temple are seen at the Sacsayhuaman archeological park in Cuzco,seen on 12 March, 2008. Researchers have found the ruins of an Inca temple built for religious ceremonies in the Andes mountains, at a park in the archeologically rich region of southern Peru that includes Machu Picchu.

XINHUA

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China, Japan to exchange food safety experts

BEIJING, 14 March — China and Japan will exchange teams of food safety experts and investigators in a bid to clear up a disagreement over Chinese-made dumplings that left 10 people sick in Japan, a Chinese official said on Thursday.

No one has died from the poisoned food but the case has stirred intense media coverage in Japan and threatened to strain ties between the two countries ahead of a visit by Chinese President Hu Jintao to Japan in coming months.

Li Changjiang, head of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, said China would send a team to Japan "in the near future". "Public Security authorities in China have also extended a similar invitation to their counterparts in Japan to discuss experiments and food safety testing methodologies," he said.

"With their joint efforts it won't be long before we reveal the final truth of the dumplings poison case," he said.

Both Beijing and Tokyo have blamed sabotage rather than production failings for causing the dumplings to be tainted, but they have been at odds over how. They have also both been at pains to emphasize the poisoning did not happen in their home countries.

MNA/Reuters

French woman faces murder trial over freezer babies

PARIS, 14 March — A woman suspected of killing three of her children at birth and storing two of the bodies in a freezer will be tried for their murder, French judicial authorities said on Wednesday.

Veronique Courjault, who has been in custody since October 2006, is expected to go on trial later this year in the western city of Tours. At a hearing on Wednesday, the examining judge dropped charges against her husband Jean-Louis, who had been investigated for complicity in the murders, his lawyer said. Veronique Courjault, 39, is alleged to have given birth to two children while the family were living in Seoul, South Korea, and to have killed both infants, storing their bodies in a freezer in their apartment.

Police say she has admitted killing a third child in France. —*MNA/Reuters*

Mt Everest skydives offered in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 14 March — A British adventure firm is offering 25,000-US-dollar skydiving trips over Mt. Everest, in a new twist to extreme sports around the world's highest peak, *The Himalayan Times* reported on Thursday.

"It is the first time anybody has tried this in the Everest (Qomolangma) area," said Nigel Gifford, whose company is offering the one-minute freefall over Mt Everest.

According to the daily, the skydivers will jump out of their plane at around 8,848-metres, he said. He said his company, High and Wild, has already taken 22 reservations from experienced sky divers as well as novices who will tandem-dive on trips planned for September.

MNA/Xinhua

China steps up air security after terrorist plot

BEIJING, 14 March — Chinese airports and airlines will step up security and ban passengers carrying liquids on domestic flights, the government said on Thursday, a week after it revealed an attempt to bring down a flight to Beijing.

Beijing is keen to reassure the world there is no problem with airline security in China ahead of the Summer Olympics in August.

Staff would open up and check more hand baggage than before, and "easy boarding" services, where passengers pay for the privilege of speedier security checks and priority boarding, would be banned, the General Administration of Civil Aviation said.

The Chinese Government announced over the weekend that a passenger jet from the restive western region of Xinjiang made a forced landing after the discovery of what state media called a "planned terrorist attack".—*MNA/Reuters*

US soldier killed by German police in standoff

BERLIN, 15 March — A US soldier who threatened his ex-girlfriend with an assault rifle has been shot dead in a standoff with German police in the southern state of Bavaria.

The incident occurred Thursday night when the 30-year-old soldier, who was based in Schweinfurt, broke into his ex-girlfriend's apartment in Koenigsberg and threatened her with an M4 rifle, German police said in a statement.

The woman managed to escape and alerted the police.

About an hour later, a police helicopter equipped with night vision cameras found the fleeing soldier in a nearby field.

According to the police account, the soldier was shot after he pointed his rifle at police commandos who came to arrest him.

German authorities and military police from the US Army base in Schweinfurt are jointly investigating the incident, the US military said.

MNA/Xinhua

Man charged over Heathrow security alert

LONDON, 15 March — A man who caused a major security alert at Heathrow Airport after getting onto a runway was charged on Friday with "aircraft endangerment", police said.

Ketheeswaran Uthayakumar, 27, of no fixed address, will face a further charge of illegally being airside when he appears at Uxbridge Magistrates Court, west London, on Saturday.

He was arrested near the northern runway of the world's busiest international airport on Thursday after scaling the perimeter fence.

Police said the incident was not related to terrorism, but have declined to comment on possible motives.

Officers blew up the man's bag in a controlled explosion, but later said they found no bomb. Some flights were delayed.

It was the second major security breach at the airport in less than a month and came the day before the Queen opened the airport's new fifth terminal.

Last month, protesters opposing the Heathrow expansion plans breached the airport's security to unveil a banner on top of a parked passenger jet.

MNA/Reuters

A man takes part in a competition in Matan Fada River during the Argungu fishing festival in Kebbi state, north-west Nigeria, on 14 March, 2008.
INTERNET

China's sci-tech development plan in progress

BEIJING, 14 March — China's Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang said here on Thursday that the medium- and long-term plan for scientific and technological development has been "progressing smoothly" since 2006.

A number of major projects, such as large planes, nuclear power and water pollution treatment and control, major new medicines and next-generation mobile communication, have been launched and the others are expected to start later this year, Wan said at a Press conference on the sidelines of the annual sessions of the national legislature and the top political advisory body.

He spoke highly of the amendment to the law for promoting scientific and technological advance, which was endorsed at the end of last year, and said it created a better environment for innovation.

MNA/Xinhua

***Although breeding is only permitted in three countries — Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore — the arowana's growing popularity as a symbol of new-found wealth could be what saves it from extinction.*—INTERNET**

If pregnant women stop smoking, babies are happier

WASHINGTON, 14 March — Mothers who stop smoking while pregnant tend to have cheerier, more adaptable babies, British researchers reported on Wednesday.

Babies of women who continued to smoke while pregnant were notably grumpy, and the researchers believe that mothers who can muster the effort to kick the habit are also caring more for their babies in other ways.

Babies of non-smokers also more temperamental than babies born to quitters, the researchers found—which they said suggested that mothers who suspend smoking are doing something special.

Tobacco can affect the growth of a fetus and has been shown to also affect children if they breathe in their mothers' secondhand smoke.

But Dr Kate Pickett at Britain's University of York thinks her team is on to something more. They have been following 18,000 British babies born between 2000 and 2002, as well as their mothers, who are taking part in a larger study.

MNA/Reuters

HK reports 50 new cases of flulike illness

HONG KONG , 14 March — The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health of Hong Kong said Thursday that it had followed up on 50 new reports of influenza-like illness outbreaks affecting 305 people.

Most of these reports were verified after the cut-off time Wednesday, said the Centre, noting that influenza-like illness may be caused by influenza or other respiratory viruses.

The reported outbreaks comprise 27 primary schools and 16 kindergartens and childcare centres, five secondary schools and one correctional institution and one special school.

Under a new arrangement implemented Thursday between the Centre and both public and private hospitals to monitor the trend of influenza-related complications in children (including severe pneumonia, myocarditis, shock, sepsis-like or encephalopathy), three reports were received so far with laboratory evidence of influenza.

They are one three-year-old boy (whose case was announced Wednesday) and two girls aged seven and eight respectively. Their current conditions are stable.

MNA/Xinhua

Immune system may cause reaction to cancer drug

WASHINGTON, 15 March — People who live in parts of the US South may have pre-existing immunities that cause a severe allergic reaction to the widely used cancer drug Erbitux, US researchers reported on Thursday.

They found that patients who had the sometimes life-threatening reactions had a pre-existing immunity to a sugar compound found in the drug made by ImClone Systems Inc.

The discovery, reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, might help explain why people living in certain regions of the United States are much more likely to have the reaction, the researchers said.

Potential patients should be tested before getting the drug, which had global sales of 1.1 billion US dollars in 2006 for use in treating colon, head and neck cancers, the researchers said.

Erbitux, known generically as cetuximab, is a monoclonal antibody, a genetically engineered immune system compound designed to target cancer cells.

But some patients have a severe allergic reaction to the drug.

Dr Thomas Platts-Mills of the University of Virginia and colleagues looked at reports of these cases, which suggest that as many as 22 per cent of patients treated with Erbitux in Tennessee and North Carolina reported some kind of reaction including anaphylaxis, which can rapidly lead to difficulty breathing, shock or fainting.

MNA/Reuters

Greek passenger ship runs aground, passengers safe

ATHENS, 14 March — Greek rescue crews transferred about 280 foreign tourists to safety after their cruise ship ran aground in the Aegean on Thursday, Greek officials said.

The small cruise ship carrying mostly US, Russian and Japanese tourists, ran aground north of the Saronic Gulf island of Poros about 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Athens, but there were no injuries.

"The evacuation is finished and we are making the final checks to make sure everyone is safe," said a Merchant Marine Ministry official who requested anonymity.

The Coast Guard said two ships, a *C130* transport plane and numerous fishing boats assisted the evacuation, while four Coast Guard vessels and a helicopter were standing by. Passengers were taken to Poros.

MNA/Reuters

Members of the 'Auntie Yang Ge Troupe', composed of retired women with the average age of 55, perform a traditional folk dance in Xuanwu district as part of activities to promote the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing on 13 March, 2008.

INTERNET

FAO launches World potato photography contest

ROME, 14 March — A world photography contest to highlight the role of the potato as a source of food, employment and income in developing countries was launched here Wednesday by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The contest was held in conjunction with the UN's International Year of the Potato (IYP) in 2008, the FAO said in a Press release.

The IYP aims to raise global awareness of the potato's key contribution to agriculture, the economy and world food security, as well as to foster potato-based food systems to help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The IYP World Photography Contest, entitled "Focus on a global food", invited photographers to capture the spirit of the international year in images that illustrate potato biodiversity, cultivation, processing, trade, marketing, consumption and utilization, according to the FAO.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Blatter confident of solution to Spanish row

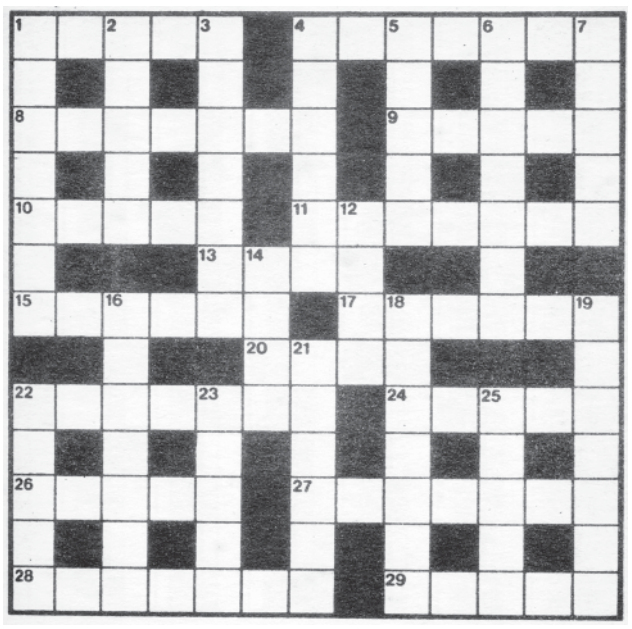
ZURICH, 15 March — FIFA president Sepp Blatter said on Friday he was confident a solution could be found to end the row over the Spanish Government's alleged interference in the running of its football association.

Speaking after a FIFA executive committee meeting, Blatter said he could not imagine Euro 2008 taking place in June without Spain but added world soccer's governing body could still be forced to take action. Last month he said Spain could face international suspension if their government continued to insist on early elections within the football association.

"It was not a threat and it was not pressure," Blatter told reporters on Friday. "I was simply explaining the situation. —*MNA/Reuters*

Peter Grant of the Stormers (R) breaks through the tackle of Simms Davison (L) of the Chiefs to score a try during the Super 14 rugby match at Waikato Stadium in Hamilton, on 14 March, 2008.—INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

1 Manufacturer
4 Flowering plant
8 Spanish nobleman
9 German steel centre
10 Aromatic seed
11 Perform surgery
13 Of sound mind
15 Push forward
17 Current
20 Woodwind
22 Greet
24 Place
26 Precise
27 Extreme
28 Organ effect
29 Rosy skinned

DOWN

1 Foreign settler
2 Army colour
3 Compensation
4 Native of Brittany
5 Stout
6 Error
7 Wife of rajah
12 Mexican coin
14 Particle of matter
16 Let free
18 Early satellite
19 Secret
21 —Mussolini
22 Grain
23 Excel
25 Corporally punished

FIFA executive backs quota for foreign players

ZURICH, 15 March — FIFA will press ahead with controversial proposals to limit the number of foreign players available to clubs, president Sepp Blatter said on Friday. Under the so-called "6 plus 5" system, Blatter wants club sides to field a minimum of six players eligible to represent the team's home international side.

Blatter, who has the full support of his executive committee for the proposals, said the idea would strengthen the identity of clubs and promote investment in developing young players.

There are doubts, however, over whether the proposals contravene European laws forbidding restraint of trade on the grounds of nationality.

"The executive committee has unanimously stated that 6 plus 5 is indeed a positive solution but, of course, we do not want to clash directly with existing laws," Blatter told a news conference at FIFA's Zurich headquarters.

He believes an exception could be made for sport in line with an agreement in the European Union's new reform treaty.

MNA/Reuters

Stormers' Luke Watson, right, passes the ball in the tackle of Chief's Ben May during their Super 14 rugby match, at Waikato Stadium, in Hamilton, New Zealand, on 14 March, 2008.—INTERNET

Schalke fight back to beat lowly Duisburg 2-1

BERLIN, 15 March — Schalke 04 recovered from a goal down to beat lowly MSV Duisburg 2-1 in the Bundesliga on Friday after facing a chorus of boos at halftime.

Germany defender Heiko Westermann got the winner in the 74th minute, firing home from the right with an acrobatic strike after Gerard Asamoah's header came back off the bar.

Germany striker Kevin Kuranyi equalized for Schalke on the hour after getting his knee on a low cross from Ivan Rakitic.

Duisburg had taken the lead against the Champions League quarterfinalists —who were drawn on Friday against Barcelona — in the 21st minute to stun a sell-out crowd of 61,482.

Bulgaria striker Blagoy Georgiev intercepted the ball in midfield and made a superb solo run down the left before beating goalkeeper Manuel Neuer with a fine shot inside the far post.

"We had a hard time finding the openings," said Schalke coach Mirko Slomka after Duisburg played with 10 men behind the ball for much of the game.

MNA/Reuters

Liverpool to face Arsenal in Champions League

LONDON, 15 March — Arsenal and Liverpool will face each other for the first time in European competition after being drawn together in the quarterfinals of the Champions League on Friday.

With four English clubs in the last eight, the most ever from one country, it was almost inevitable that two would meet as the names were drawn at UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland.

Manchester United face Roma in a repeat of their clash at this stage last year while Chelsea's quest to win Europe's premier club competition for the first time will be tested by a tie with Turkish last-eight debutants Fenerbahce.

Barcelona will have home advantage in the second leg after being drawn to play Germany's Schalke.

With the semifinal draw also being made, the eight remaining clubs now know their prospective paths to the final to be played in Moscow.

MNA/Reuters

Renault Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain in action during the second timed practice session at the Albert Park circuit in Melbourne, Australia, on 14 March, 2008. The season's opening Formula One race will be held here on 16 March.—INTERNET

Barca's Eto'o wanted Chelsea or United, not Schalke

MADRID, 15 March — Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o would have preferred facing Chelsea or Manchester United rather than Schalke 04 in the Champions League quarterfinals.

"There are lots of other people who would have wanted Schalke, but I can assure you there are no easy games," the Cameroon international told reporters after Friday's draw.

"I would have preferred to be drawn against Chelsea or Manchester United because at least then you would have been going with the idea that it is going to be tough. "Games like these can be a trap and I hope we don't fall into it because Schalke deserve to be there just like any other team."

Spanish media were unanimous Barca had a favourable draw by avoiding the four British teams and getting the unfancied Bundesliga side making their first appearance in the last eight.

To support his argument, though, Eto'o referred to last year's King's Cup tie against semifinal debutants Getafe when Barcelona let a 5-2 first-leg lead slip as they went out of the competition after embarrassing 4-0 defeat in the return. —*MNA/Reuters*

Liverpool's Agger ruled out for rest of season

LONDON, 15 March — Liverpool central defender Daniel Agger will miss the rest of the season with a foot injury, the Premier League club said on Friday.

Manager Rafael Benitez said the Dane, who has not played since September, will have surgery on a metatarsal injury next week.

"It's a blow for Daniel but we want to get his problem sorted," Benitez told the club's website (www.liverpoolfc.tv).

"We have defensive cover and Martin Skrtel is playing very well. Daniel will be back for next season." — *MNA/Reuters*

Bus accident kills 23 students in Syria

DAMASCUS, 15 March — Twenty-three high school students were killed on Friday when a bus carrying them on a recreation trip overturned and hit a house in a coastal region of Syria, officials said.

The owner of the house in the province of Tartous was also killed. A total of 31 people, mostly students, were injured, nine of them in critical condition, the officials said.

The bus was going too fast, approached a curve and could not maintain control, one of the officials told *Reuters*.

Syrian roads, especially ones linking provinces, are notorious for being dangerous. The roads rarely carry markings, no speed limits are enforced, and small buses with tiny engines and no crash protection are allowed on highways.

MNA/Reuters

US serviceman fined over trespassing in Okinawa

TOKYO, 15 March — A US Air Force serviceman in Southern Japan's Okinawa Prefecture was fined 100,000 yen (about 1, 000 US dollars) Friday over trespassing into a private office earlier this month.

Wesley Taft, an Airman Second Class of Kadena Air Base, was convicted of trespassing into a construction association's office in Okinawa city on March 2 after breaking the building's appearance glass with a 1.8-metre-long iron stick in early morning.

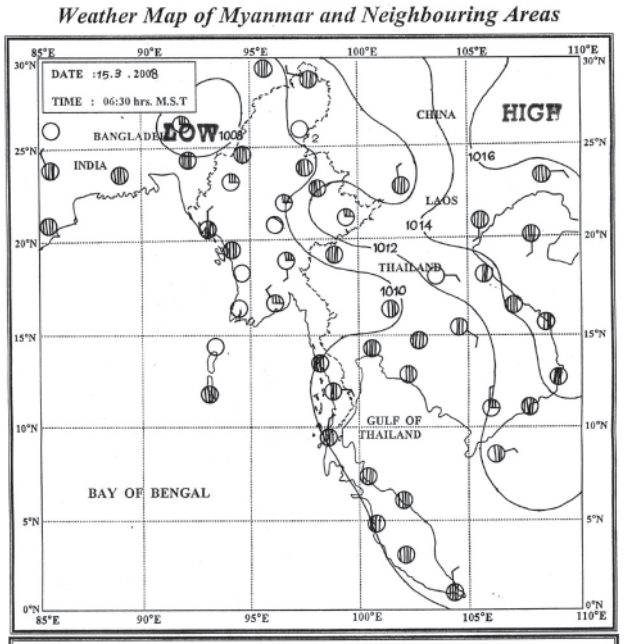
He was drunken when being arrested and admitted what he was accused of.

The case happened after the Japan-based US forces imposed since February 20 a curfew on all of its servicemen and nonmilitary personnel as a measure to tighten discipline in wake of a series of crimes involving US troops, including the rape of a minor girl by a US Marine.

Taft said he sneaked out of his base over fence during the curfew.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



A woman carves egg shells with Beijing Olympic themes in Xuanwu district as part o activitiesto promote the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, on 13 March, 2008. The Chinese capital is gearing up for China's biggest event of the year, the Olympic Games which Games which opens on 8 Augut, 2008. Eggshell carving is a popular folk in China.—INTERNET

Strong earthquake jolts Bonin Islands, Japan

HONG KONG, 15 March — An earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale hit seas near Bonin Islands, Japan at 6:38 am (1038 GMT) on Saturday, according to a bulletin released by the Hong Kong Observatory.

The epicentre was initially determined to be 26.9 degrees north Latitude and 142.6 degrees east longitude, about 1,010 kilometres south-southwest of Tokyo.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Saturday, 15 March, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3ºC) to (4ºC) above March average temperatures in Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (5ºC) below March average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Minbu and Magway (42ºC) each, Taungdwingyi (41ºC), Monywa, NyaungU, Yamethin, Pyinmana and Aunglan (40ºC) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.07) inch.

Maximum temperature on 14-3-2008 was 100ºF. Minimum temperature on 15-3-2008 was 71ºF. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-3-2008 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 14-3-2008 was (8.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 15-3-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (0.67) inch at Mingaladon, (0.47) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.35) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northwest at (18:30) hours MST on 14-3-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Central Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-3-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin, Northern Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas willbe moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-3-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-3-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-3-2008: Partly cloudy

TV Myanmar

Sunday, 16 March
View on today

7:00 am
1. ေတာင္တန္းသာနာပြဲ ဆရာေတာ္ၾကီး ဦးဥတၱမသာရ၏ ပရိတ္တရားေတာ္
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Dance variety
7:50 am
5. Musical programme
8:05 am
6. ဓိုက္ကရဲရေထိန္းတံခါး
8:20 am
7. (၆၃)နွစ္ေျမာက္ တပ္မေတာ္ေန.ဂုဏ္ျပဳအစီအစဥ္
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Local talent
11:00 am
1. စစ္သည္ေတး
11:10 am
2. သက္တံ့ေရာင္သံစဥ္
11:30 am
3. Weekly International news
11:40 am
4. ထက္ျမက္ေပ်ာ္ရြင္ အိမ္ေထာင္ရွင္
11:50 am
5. ျမန္မာဗီဒီယိုဇာတ္လမ္း "ရွာရန္ရာနွင္းျပည့္" (ခိုင္းခိုင္း၊ မေသန္းန၊ မ်ိဳးသန္ဇာထြန္း) (ဒါရိုက္တာ–ကိုလြင္–စန္းဝိုက္)
1:40 pm
6. Dance of national races
1:50 pm
7. ေဘာ်ဘင္ေရေလွာင္တမံ
2:00 pm
8. Musical programme
2:10 pm
9. "မင္းမသိေသးပါဘူးကြာ" (ဇရာ၊ ဌက ေပ်ာေက်ြဘ်၊ ခ်စ္စရာ၊ ကြ်ဴကြ်ဴသင္း၊ ေအးေအးခိုင္) (ဒါရိုက္တာ–ေဆြဇင္ထိုက္)
2:20 pm
10. Cute little dancer
2:30 pm
11. The mirror images of the musical oldies
2:45 pm
12. International news
4:00 pm
1. စစ္ရီေတး၊စစ္သည္ေတး
4:10 pm
2. တပ္မေတ္ေန.ဂုဏ္ျပဳ ေတးသီခ်င္းပြိဳင္ပဲြဆုရေတးမ်ား
4:20 pm
3. ရုပ္ျမင္ရသေတးစုကလပ္
4:30 pm
4. Musical programme
4:45 pm
5. အေဝးသင္တကၠသိုလ္ ပညာေရး ရုပ္ျမင္သံၾကား သင္ခန္းစာ–တတိယနွစ္ (ရုကၡေဗဒအထူးပို့) (ရုကၡေဗဒ)
5:00 pm
6. မ်ိဳးခ်ျစ္စိတ္ဓာတ္ ရွင္သန္ ထက္ျမက္ေရးေတးမ်ား
5:10 pm
7. ဆိုကြမယ္၊ ေပ်ာ္ကြမယ္
6:00 pm
8. Evening news
6:30 pm
9. Weather report
6:35 am
10. (၆၃)နွစ္ေျမာက္ တပ္မေတာ္ေန.ဂုဏ္ျပဳအစီအစဥ္
6:45 pm
11. ေပ်ာ္ရြင္ကျန္းမာသန္.စင္ေသာ အစာ (သန္.ေလးသန္.) (ဆုပန္ထူး၊ ပွင့္၊ ဝွမ္းပုံကြီး၊ ဟဲဗီးဖြိုး) (ဒါရိုက္တာ–ကြည္စိုးထြန္း)
6:50 pm
12. Musical programme
7:00 pm
13. One village one product
7:20 pm
14. Musical program
7:35 pm
15. အား နားတယ္(ခန္.စည္သူ၊ မိုးျပည့္ျပည့္ေမာင္၊ ဇရာ၊ မ်ိဳးမ်ိဳးခိုင္) (ဒါရိုက္တာ–ဖုန္းျမင့္ေအာင္)
8:00 pm
16. Local news
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. Musical programme
20. နိုင္ငံေခ်ာေတာ္လမ္းတဲ့ "မာယာေထာင္ေခ်ာက္" (အပိုင္း–၁၈)

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The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej pays homage to Shwedagon Pagoda

Thai goodwill delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 15 March — Accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bonsarn Bunnag, Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej arrived here by special flight from Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The Thai Prime Minister and party were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Thai Prime Minister and party attended the opening ceremony of the new Thai Embassy at the corner of Pyay Road and Manawhari Street in Dagon Township.

Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej met the Thai Ambassador, staff of the embassy and Thai entrepreneurs in Myanmar and urged them to promote friendly relation between Myanmar and Thailand.

(See page 8)

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win sees off Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej unveils signboard of new building of Thai Embassy in Yangon.—MNA

INSIDE

The nation has enjoyed the taste of remarkable development

Despite a variety of disruptions, the nation has enjoyed the taste of remarkable development due to the hard work exerted by national people with patriotic spirit and nationalistic fervour. The democratic process has made progress to a certain degree. Myanmar people are now enjoying the fruits of wholesome deeds they have done.

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MAUNG PWINT LIN